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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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# ROBERT ROBERTS HITT

(Late a Representative from Illinois)

## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES



Fifty-ninth Congress  
Second Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
February 17, 1907

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES  
February 23, 1907

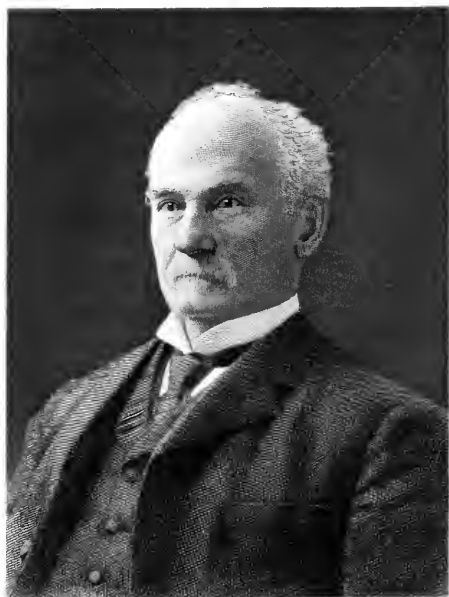
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## DEATH OF REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT R. HITT

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### PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE

MONDAY, *December 3, 1906.*

This being the day designated by the Constitution for the annual meeting of Congress, the Members of the House of Representatives assembled in their Hall for the second session of the Fifty-ninth Congress, and at 12 o'clock m. were called to order by the Speaker.

The Rev. Henry N. Conden, D. D., Chaplain of the House, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, source of all good, our hearts instinctively turn to Thee for wisdom, strength, and guidance as we thus gather from all sections of our Union here under the Dome of its Capitol to conclude the work of the Fifty-ninth Congress. We bless Thee for the laws with which Thou hast surrounded us, for the intelligence with which Thou hast endowed us, for the riches which have come down to us out of the past, for the splendid opportunities of the present, and for the bright hopes and promises of the future. Grant, O most merciful Father, that these Thy servants may strive diligently to conform their resolves and harmonize their enactments with the laws which Thou has ordained.

Let Thy richest blessings descend upon the Speaker of this House, that with characteristic zeal, energy, and courage he

may guide through all its deliberations to the highest and best results.

Illumine from on high the minds of those who sit in judgment upon the laws enacted by the Congress that their decisions may be wise and just. Bless, we beseech Thee, the President of these United States, his advisers, and all others in authority, that the affairs of state may be wisely administered and the laws of the land faithfully executed, that the coordinate branches of the Government, thus working together and working with Thee, may fulfill in larger measure the ideals conceived of our fathers in "a government of the people, by the people, and for the people," that righteousness, truth, justice, peace, and good will may obtain, to the honor and glory of Thy holy name.

The empty seats on the floor of this House remind us of the strong-minded, pure-hearted, noble men who occupied them, but have been called to the higher life since last we met. We thank Thee for their genial presence so long among us, the work they accomplished for State and nation, the sweet memory and illustrious examples left behind them. Be very near, O God, our Heavenly Father, to the bereaved families. Uphold, sustain, and comfort them by the blessed hope of the immortality of the soul.

Impart, we implore Thee, more of Thyself unto us all, that we may become in deed and in truth sons of the living God after the similitude of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord and Master. Amen.

MR. LOWDEN. Mr. Speaker, it becomes my painful duty to announce the death of the Hon. ROBERT R. HITT, Representative of the Thirteenth district of Illinois. At a later day I shall ask that a time be set apart for exercises in memory of Mr. HITT. I now offer the following resolution and move its adoption.

The Clerk read as follows :

*Resolved*, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. ROBERT R. HITT, a Representative from the State of Illinois in thirteen successive Congresses.

The resolution was agreed to.

*Resolved*, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased this House do now adjourn.

The resolutions were agreed to. Accordingly, in pursuance thereof, the House (at 12 o'clock and 54 minutes) adjourned until to-morrow at 12 o'clock noon.

MONDAY, *January 14, 1907.*

Mr. LOWDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the present consideration of the following order.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Illinois asks unanimous consent for the present consideration of the following order.

The Clerk read as follows:

That there be a session of the House on Sunday, February 17, 1907, at 12 o'clock m., which shall be set apart for memorial addresses on the life, character, and public services of Hon. ROBERT R. HITT, late a Representative from the Thirteenth Congressional district of Illinois.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the order will be agreed to.

There was no objection.

SUNDAY, *February 17, 1907.*

The House met at 12 o'clock noon.

The Chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Conden, D. D., offered the following prayer:

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

*But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night.*

*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

Our Father in heaven, once more under the dispensation of Thy providence are we met within these historic walls to pay a last tribute of respect to one who learned patience, wisdom, courage, fortitude, patriotism, and nobility of soul at the feet of our martyred Lincoln, and who served for years on the floor of this House with signal ability, and died beloved by all who knew him. Grant, O most merciful Father, that his example may be an incentive to those who knew him and to those who shall come after him to pure living and patriotic citizenship, so that when we pass from the scenes of this life men shall rise up and call us blessed.

Comfort his colleagues, friends, and kinsmen with the blessed hope of the gospel; and help us to look forward with faith and confidence to a blessed reward in some fairer life, where, with the redeemed, we shall live forever; and Thine be the praise, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MR. LOWDEN. Mr. Speaker, I offer the resolutions which I send to the Clerk's desk.

THE SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the resolutions.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved*, That the business of the House be now suspended, that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of Hon. ROBERT R. HITT, late a member of this House from the State of Illinois.

*Resolved*, That, as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House, at the conclusion of these exercises, shall stand adjourned.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

THE SPEAKER. The question is on agreeing to the resolutions.

The resolutions were agreed to.



## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

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### ADDRESS OF MR. LOWDEN, OF ILLINOIS

MR. SPEAKER: An old Roman once said that man was to be likened to a sentinel on duty, obliged to stay at his post until summoned hence by his commander. Perplexities might come, ill health might press him down, but he is bound, smilingly, if he can, but patiently anyway, to bear the burdens of the earth until released from above. The man whose name we affectionately take upon our lips to-day, whose image is in our hearts, illustrated by his life and death this everlasting truth. More than a decade ago death was very near him, and during the time that since has intervened he knew that he was under sentence to die almost any day. And yet never was he more useful to his country than during these years. He was, in very truth, a sentinel on guard, and serenely served his country and his time until the summons came. There is nothing which more dignifies man, which more benefits the world, than obedience to the law of service until the very end of life. The young can exhibit no triumph of mind which, in sublimity, equals that of the old man—old as the world measures age—who looks point-blank into eternity and genially and graciously helps to bear the burdens of the world. ROBERT ROBERTS HITT was fine in his splendid youth; he was finer still in his latest years. Though he knew that death had but given him truce, he lavished the best that was in him upon his country, family, and friends. He made it easier for all of us

to meet old age and to meet it with a smile. Never were his perceptions keener, his charity broader, nor his affections deeper than during the very last year he walked the earth. His soul never shone more resplendent than at this time, though his feeble body was galloping to the grave. Then why shall we not believe that he survived the clay where he once abode and that we shall meet him yet again?

ROBERT ROBERTS HITT was born at Urbana, Ohio, January 16, 1834. His parents were Rev. Thomas H. Hitt and Emily John Hitt. The former was a member of the Methodist Church. When young ROBERT was 3 years of age his parents migrated to Ogle County, Ill., and settled at Mount Morris. Thomas Hitt was described by those who knew him as a man of high character and ideals, devoted to his work. The pioneer preacher in every stage of the development of this country has borne a conspicuous part: Thomas Hitt was a fine type of his class. The mother of ROBERT was a woman of great intellectual ability and beauty of character. This is the uniform testimony of those who knew her best.

Young HITT was educated at Rock River Seminary and at De Pauw University. During his college course he grew deeply interested in the stenographic art and became a very accomplished shorthand reporter. He preserved to history the Lincoln-Douglas debates of fifty-eight, and it is said that Mr. Lincoln never arose to speak during that epoch-making time until he had assured himself that "BOB" HITT was present and at his post. To us of Illinois he seemed the closest link between the martyred Lincoln and the times we call our own. The confidence in and friendship for HITT which Lincoln cherished, the reverence which HITT felt for Lincoln, who once was ours and now belongs to the world, made Lincoln seem very near to us indeed.

Mr. HITT was first secretary of legation at Paris from 1874 to 1881 and chargé d'affaires a part of that time. He was First Assistant Secretary of State under Blaine during Garfield's Administration. He was elected to Congress from the old Ninth Illinois district in 1882, and served continuously until the time of his death, September 20, 1906. He became chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs at the beginning of the Fifty-first Congress. He was appointed in July, 1898, by President McKinley, member of the commission to establish government in the Sandwich Islands. During the last years of his life he was also Regent of the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. HITT was married in 1874 to Miss Sallie Reynolds, a lady of great beauty, charm of manner, and cultivation of mind, who, with two sons, Reynolds and William F., survive him.

His home was a happy one. Those who were privileged to enter it found culture and hospitality so graciously interwoven that every visit there produced a delightful memory.

Of Mr. HITT's career in Congress, his old colleagues in this House are better fitted than I to speak. I may be permitted, however, to say that the people of our district were proud of his achievements and knew that his counsel was of infinite value to the nation. In every crisis in our foreign affairs we turned confidently to Washington, for we knew that the wise, just, patient statesman we had sent you would be heard.

He was the soul of honor, and simplicity was the dominant quality of his mind and heart. Elaborate logic, too much refined, will miss the goal, where simple, unpretentious directness will win. This simplicity of which I speak was never more marked than in his public utterances. There are two kinds of speeches—one intended to show the marvelous mental machinery of the orator, the other to elucidate the simple truth from out a complex mass of facts. Mr. HITT's method was the latter.

Genial and gentle, he was the most lovable of friends. The richness of his mind made him a center of interest in any company. Perfect naturalness seemed his. And this is why he liked men and men liked him. He was equally at home among the great and small. He knew that rank and wealth "were but thin disguises of the soul."

Almost a quarter of a century ago, on an occasion similar to this, he, whom we mourn to-day, in speaking of Major Hawk, who had preceded him as Representative to Congress, used these words:

He satisfied his constituents—no easy task, for that Galena district had been accustomed to being represented by men of national reputation—Baker, Washburne, Burchard—with whom he would be compared. But the people appreciated his solid qualities, his worth, his faithful services. They trusted and honored him again and again, and when he was cut off so untimely they mourned his death as a personal sorrow.

These words seem to have been as prophetic of his own career as they were descriptive of that other career then just closed. He was always proud of his district, and the district justified him in his pride. If thrift, intelligence, patriotism, and self-respect are, as I believe, the qualities which finally give superiority to men, the people of this district are second to none anywhere. He had an affection for the old district, and it loved him.

It is indeed a notable district. It was the home of Grant and Rawlins, upon whom that great captain leaned. It was once represented in the Congress of the United States by Baker, who fell at Balls Bluff while yet "his fame was in its dawn." Early in the fifties, before the Republican party was born, this district sent Elihu B. Washburne to this Chamber, where he remained until he became minister to France. Then came Horatio C. Burchard, who was a recognized authority on all questions of finance. He in turn was followed by Robert M. A. Hawk, a gallant soldier who died all too soon the

result of wounds received in the civil war. From then until a few months ago, ROBERT ROBERTS HITT was the fitting Representative of the historic Galena district. Of the great group I have named Burchard alone survives, and the evening of his life is gently closing in about him.

I have heard many regret that Mr. HITT's distinguished services to his country did not bring him higher place. I can sympathize with the thought which prompts the regret, but I do not join in the conclusion reached. It seems to me that to have served his country with the ability and fidelity which always characterized him; to have spent the last quarter of a century of his life in this great body; to have won its admiration and respect, and now to live in its affections is a perfect public career.

On a lovely September afternoon, near the beautiful town in which he lived, I beheld the dust of ROBERT ROBERTS HITT descend into the earth. It seemed to me as I stood there that much of the brightness of this world had also gone into that grave. But what we saw was not our friend—it was only the garment of his immortal soul. Some place, we know not how nor where, that bright, bewitching, and gentle mind, that tender love, have found full play.

## ADDRESS OF MR. CLARK, OF MISSOURI

MR. SPEAKER:

With deep affection  
And recollection  
I often think of

ROBERT ROBERTS HITT. He was as fine a gentleman as his generation could show; able, kind, generous, courteous, graceful, gentle, faithful, with a wealth of experience and knowledge equaled by few Representatives or Senators and excelled perhaps by none. He possessed the somewhat unusual faculty of imparting information without even a hint of superiority, and therefore without offense. He knew not only men but books, being a most diligent and enthusiastic student of the great masters in both English and French, for, among his many accomplishments, he read the language of Moliere, Voltaire, Bossuet, and Mirabeau with the ease and precision of a Parisian.

King Solomon hath it that "Words fitly spoken are like apples of gold in pictures of silver." In the rush and swirl of things here what our lamented friend Col. Charles Fremont Cochran, of St. Joseph, Mo., was wont to denominate "the old and experienced Member," sometimes fails in that thoughtful kindness and valuable suggestion which would cheer the new Member out of that feeling of utter forlornness which comes to most men upon their first appearance here. This Capitol, like "Fame's proud temple, shines afar," with an irresistible fascination to the aspiring man; but upon entering it, commissioned to sit in the seats of the mighty, he finds the veterans so busy with their own plans, labors, ambitions, and schemes that he feels as lonesome as did Alexander Selkirk on his desert isle. As I have now come to be one of Cochran's "old and experienced Members," I make free to suggest that we should always be

careful to give the newcomers the glad hand. We may be welcoming statesmen unawares.

This train of thought was suggested by my experience with Mr. Chairman HITT. At the beginning of the Fifty-fifth Congress, when I returned to the House after two years of involuntary rustication, I wanted Mr. Speaker Reed to place me on the Committee on Rivers and Harbors, which he would not do, saying that I had too many rivers in my district, but that he would give me a better assignment. My friend, Senator Joseph Weldon Bailey, then the minority leader in the House, tried to dissuade me from my purpose to go on Rivers and Harbors, promising to use his influence with Speaker Reed to give me a good committee. I was never certain, however, where I would land until the last night of the extra session in the summer of 1897, when, just before the committees were announced, Mr. HITT came over to my desk, placed his hand affectionately upon my shoulder, asked me if I thought he and I could get along amicably together on a committee, told me of my assignment, and welcomed me most cordially to membership on the great Committee on Foreign Affairs, composed of a rare set of men, where I served six years with great profit to myself and, I hope, without detriment to the country. From that night, by reason of that gracious action on the part of Mr. HITT, I loved the man with something of filial affection and shall always fondly cherish his memory.

If I had the entire membership of the next House before me I would feel very much like delivering a lecture on the relative value of committee assignments; it might save much of heart burning; and the first thing I would tell them would be that membership on Foreign Affairs is much underrated generally. It is not merely a dress-parade committee, as some folks imagine. It has multifarious duties, most of them important,

some of extreme delicacy, and others of far-reaching consequences. In my six years' service on it two great debates grew out of bills which we reported and on which the committee was divided.

Governor Nelson Dingley gave me some valuable information about committees out of his large experience.

I once asked him as to the comparative value of places on Appropriations and Ways and Means. He said that as a mental training they were both of the highest value in precisely opposite directions—that service on Appropriations drove a man into details, while service on Ways and Means forced him into generalization; that a reasonable service on both was of incalculable value as an educational process. I have never received more suggestive information than that. In this connection it is not out of place to remark that Governor Dingley was much more of a philosopher than he was commonly credited with being. A man knowing what he thought on the tariff and what I think on that subject may be surprised to learn that he once gave me what I consider pointers of prime value as to the theory of making a tariff-revision bill from my own standpoint, but that is a fact, nevertheless, for which I am grateful to him, though in his grave.

Men may come and men may go, but the great Committee on Foreign Affairs will never have a chairman more thoroughly ideal in equipment, character, manner, and conduct than was Mr. Chairman HITT.

Everybody acquainted with my mental processes knows that to talk of Col. Thomas Hart Benton has become a sort of fad with me. It is not unlikely that I sometimes bore people about him. I do not believe that "The Great Missourian" has had a fair deal in history, which I intend he shall have if I live long enough.



So one morning in the last year of Senator George Frisbie Hoar's life he and I happened to come up to the Capitol together on a street car. I said:

Senator, which knew the more—John Quincy Adams or Col. Thomas H. Benton?

With a merry twinkle in his eye he replied:

If it had been left to them to decide, both knew the more.

Then he added:

Well, that is hardly a fair statement. They differed so much in their fields of investigation that it is difficult to compare them. John Quincy Adams knew more about our foreign affairs than any other American of his time, and Colonel Benton knew more about our domestic affairs than any American of his time.

A philosophic remark, surely. So, I think, it may be stated without exaggeration that Mr. HITT knew as much about our foreign relations as any man of his time.

His whole life had been a training for that high, onerous, and delicate position. As a youth he reported for Abraham Lincoln the far-resounding Douglas and Lincoln debates—which in itself was a liberal political education. Such a privilege as sitting at the feet of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas to learn wisdom comes to few young men. It not only brought him into close personal contact with those mental Titans, but gave him a splendid coign of vantage from which to view and measure the big Illinoisans of that day, and what a magnificent array it was: Douglas, Lincoln, David Davis, General Shields, Lyman Trumbull, Dick Yates the first, Dick Oglesby, Leonard Swett, Richardson, Browning, Elihu B. Washburne, Long John Wentworth, the Lovejoys, John A. Logan, John M. Palmer, John A. McClernand, William R. Morrison, and Joseph Medill.

Besides these and other seasoned veterans whose voice has filled the trump of fame, Senator Shelby M. Cullom was

beginning his long career, and, Mr. Speaker, your political star, now blazing like Sirius at the zenith, was just peeping above the horizon.

Association with those men—even a passing glimpse at them—was enough to send any youngster upon a political voyage.

It is appropos to state that one of the most dramatic pieces of prose in our vernacular is in *The Crisis*, where Winston Churchill describes the Freeport debate betwixt Douglas and Lincoln in 1858, at which time and place was settled not only the Illinois United States Senatorship for which they were wrestling, but also the stupendous issue of the Presidential election of 1860.

Seldom in this world has there been—seldom in this world will there be—a question asked and answered on which hinges such momentous events as upon the question so carefully formulated by Lincoln, so carefully recorded by HITT, and so promptly answered by “the Little Giant.”

It seems to me that if the thousands of men, women, and children assembled in that soggy grove, in that drizzling weather, that day at Freeport, could have really comprehended the full significance of Lincoln’s question and the words of Douglas, they would have shrieked with terror and would have fled appalled; but fortunately, mercifully—

Heaven from all creatures hides the book of fate,  
Oh! Blindness to the future kindly given,  
That each may fill the circle marked by heaven.

And no human being there that day except Lincoln himself appears to have thought that anything had been accomplished except that Lincoln had reelected Douglas to the Senate—which he had. It seems to have occurred to no one there except to Lincoln what is clear to everybody now—that by that

day's work Lincoln had not only lost to Douglas the splendid prize of the Senatorship, but had won for himself the more splendid prize of the Presidency; but such is the truth of history.

The "Bob Hill" to whom Churchill so frequently refers in those intense chapters, and whom Lincoln loved and leaned upon, was ROBERT ROBERTS HITT.

When Mr. Churchill comes to issue a new and revised edition of his thrilling novel, he should strike out the name of Hill and insert HITT.

After those debates, Mr. HITT had a position in Washington which enabled him to study at short range the great men here—especially the Missouri giant, James S. Greene, who had no superior in the Senate, a statesman of whom Mr. HITT delighted to speak.

For years Mr. HITT was our secretary of legation and chargé d'affaires to the French court. This service brought him into close contact with the choice spirits of the Third Republic, Thiers, Gambetta, McMahon, Victor Hugo, and the rest; also, of course, he was thrown into the company of the diplomats from other lands.

The next step in his diplomatic education was that he served as Assistant Secretary of State under James Gillespie Blaine when that brilliant man was in the flower of his years and in the prime of his splendid powers.

Thus equipped and thus educated, Mr. HITT entered the House, where he served nearly a quarter of a century and where from the first he was considered an authority on all matters pertaining to our foreign relations. He was a model chairman. He would have made a model Secretary of State or an ideal ambassador to a foreign court.

If his health had been good, he probably would have been

elected Vice-President in 1904, perhaps without a contest for the nomination, as it is generally understood that Vice-President Fairbanks did not really desire the position—at any rate was not an active candidate. It is safe to say that had Mr. HITT been elected he would have discharged the duties of that exalted station with such consummate grace and tact as to recall the days of Aaron Burr, who, notwithstanding the odium which rests upon his name, is still ranked by the traditions of the Senate as foremost among its presiding officers.

Mr. HITT made it a point to give one state dinner to his committee during each Congressional term, and I feel certain that all who served under him on his committee will bear me witness that to accept his hospitality was a delight, for we all felt that we were welcome guests—invited not on compulsion, but because he really wished to contribute to our happiness and to cement our friendship. Such courtesies may be classed among those which General Garfield once felicitously characterized as “the flowers growing over the dividing walls of partisan politics.”

Mr. HITT was one of the finest raconteurs I have ever known. His mind was stored with anecdotes of the richest character about the most interesting personages of both hemispheres, and he was a rare artist in conversation. Many of his friends, including myself, begged him to write a book of reminiscences, and it's a pity—a positive loss to literature—that he did not do so.

On March 4 I will have served twelve years here. When this Congress began, there were thirty-nine Members who had served longer. Fifteen of these will not be Members of the House in the Sixtieth Congress. Thus rapidly changes the personnel of this body—once more teaching us what shadows we are and what shadows we pursue.

**ADDRESS OF MR. PAYNE, OF NEW YORK**

MR. SPEAKER: My acquaintance with ROBERT R. HITT began in December, 1883, at the opening session of the Forty-eighth Congress. His Congressional career commenced a year earlier, he having been elected in November, 1882, to fill a vacancy which followed the death of his predecessor. From my earliest acquaintance with him I enjoyed his personal friendship until the end of his life.

He completed twenty-four years of continuous service here, an honor and distinction which has rarely been accorded to any Representative. This continued fidelity of his constituents who sent him here was most creditable to them, as it was honorable to Mr. HITT.

He came here after a thorough political training. As a boy at the post-office in the village store he was regularly perched upon a box or barrel to read from the New York Tribune from some published speech of a statesman like William H. Seward or an editorial from the pen of Horace Greeley to the few Republicans who in the early days of the party gathered about waiting for their mail. He said to me that he had first regarded these speeches and writings as dull and uninteresting. Later he became interested, and by them were laid the foundation of his political character, which made him a firm believer in the principles of his party.

Later it was his good fortune to be able to take down in shorthand the great debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, a debate that paved the way for Lincoln's elevation to the Presidency and found for him a place among the world's immortals; it likewise added new luster to the already great renown of Douglas.

Mr. HITT's first public service was as first secretary of the legation in Paris, in which capacity he served from 1874 to 1881, and during a portion of the time, in the absence of his chief, acting as chargé d'affaires ad interim. In March, 1881, he was appointed Assistant Secretary of State, which office he held until he took his seat in Congress during the following year. As a legislator his principal work was in connection with our foreign affairs. He was a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs during nearly all of his service here and was for an unprecedented period its chairman, the honored position which he held at the time of his death.

For a comprehensive knowledge of our foreign relations and a thorough understanding of every diplomatic question that has arisen Mr. HITT had no superior. He had always at his command the details of every complication that arose between foreign countries, the history of all important matters which led up to the issue, and would often in an offhand conversation surprise the best of the world's diplomats by his thorough analysis and conclusions. He was often sought for information and counsel. Though his tastes and his life work were more distinctively connected with questions of foreign intercourse, he was equally well posted upon all questions of a national character.

He was a thorough gentleman, kind, obliging, and diplomatic, but not the least exclusive. He had an inner circle of friends, because some admired him and sought him more than others; but he had a kind word for all; was the same amiable, independent gentleman to everyone with whom he came in contact. He was a good politician as well as a statesman. It was my good fortune to speak with him from the same platform to some of his people in a recent campaign. He not only showed keen knowledge of public affairs, but drawing his illustrations

from business incidents in the locality, giving the names of the parties, the dates of the transaction, his appeal was one of the most forcible to which I ever listened. He was a good mixer among the crowd that gathered about him; had a good memory for names and incidents in the lives of the men whom he met. This appearance of Mr. HITT among his own people, and the evident regard and warm friendship with which they greeted him, was proof that they kept him here not only because they admired him for his greatness of character, but because they loved him as a man.

Mr. Speaker, others will speak of Mr. HITT as he appeared to them. I only speak briefly of him as he appeared to me, without dwelling upon his great public service. He was a manly man, a high-toned gentleman in the best sense, a faithful friend, a wise and industrious public servant, a kind father, and a devoted husband. His life was an illustration of American manhood at its best.

**ADDRESS OF MR. COUSINS, OF IOWA**

MR. SPEAKER: When it comes to the last analysis of the character of men who have served conspicuously for any considerable period in American public life, the result is usually a verdict of essential virtue.

For example, if we consider our Presidents in history, an exposé of their characters and accomplishments affords an inspiration and a realization which involves both genuine goodness and distinguished ability that challenges the world and all time for comparative examples.

If we consider our judiciary in history altogether, the record of their administration of equity and law—that is to say, of justice—reveals no blur upon the ermine of that order sufficient even to taint its shroud nor to discourage any man who feels the deeper inspiration of ability and exalted character.

When we contemplate, as we do to-day, the legislators of our nation in its history—I mean by that the men whose eyes are closed forever from our country and the world and from the mace; whose ears are deaf to praise and to the gavel's fall, and whose hearts no longer feel the thrill of action nor of noble purposes and of honest deeds, nor the faithful friendship of comrades and constituents—the conclusion in no way embarrasses the contemplation, but rather leads it further into deeper consideration of the characters involved.

Lamenting the loss of his living presence, his vitalizing usefulness, and his sympathetic helpfulness, we treasure not only for to-day, but for all time, in the records and the memories of men the accomplishments and character and the friendship of  
ROBERT ROBERTS HITT.



There are always two elements that make up and round out human characters, the inherent and the adventitious—that which we bring with us into the world and that which surroundings and associations give us. Mr. HITT was peculiarly favored by unusual endowments in both these elements. His ancestors were pioneers. They were of that stuff which produces rugged, cultured men. They helped to mark the early, toilsome trails of labor, usefulness, and civilization on our rich, young western world. They belonged to that matchless band of pioneers who feared neither the lurking dangers of the forest nor shrank from the hardships of adventure and preemption. The grandfather came to Ohio from Lincoln's native State, Kentucky, and then they went together in a colony to that wondrous region of the rivers and the hills of Illinois early enough to feel the rich, life-giving inspirations of that virgin soil and to realize the thrift of its fertility and the virtue of its sterling manhood and devoted womanhood. They founded schools and churches and helped to civilize the wilds. They flourished with that mighty element of early settlers whose progeny continuously pressed farther, even to the western sea and setting sun.

ROBERT R. HITT, who began his life at Urbana, Ohio, in 1834, had better opportunities than most men of pioneer days for development through advantages of circumstances and associations. In the first place, the natural surroundings were of that rugged sort which forbade indulgences involving physical deterioration and which at the same time offered opportunities for education. He was schooled first at Rock River Seminary, in Illinois, which his father had aided in establishing, and then was graduated at Asbury University (now De Pauw), in Indiana. But perhaps the greatest fortune of his adventitious realizations was the opportunity which brought him into close

association with that wondrous character, Abraham Lincoln, in reporting the Lincoln-Douglas debates, and in the closer associations of confidential and personal employment.

Of all advantages that may happen to a young mind capable of understanding, nothing can possibly count for so much in the way of substantial mental benefit and inspiration as intimate association with a great character.

Of all phenomena in our strange world, the only thing that holds us constantly, and of which we never tire, is human intellect, individuality, that personal something which manifests itself originally and in countless ways, through thought or deed or melody or dream, that something which is always and forever impossible until, like its own peculiar genius, it manifests itself.

But with all the adventitious elements that contributed to his life and usefulness the kindest and gentlest of all aids and inspirations was the life association with that helpful and distinguished consort who survives to-day, and with whom we share in mourning, offering to her and to her family our deep condolence and assurances of fondness and respect.

After the eminent advantages of such distinguished associations our friend enjoyed the opportunities of extensive foreign travel and of observation, which fitted him so preeminently for his subsequent duties as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in this great body, which position, as Representative from the State of Illinois, he occupied with unusual ability and exquisite tact for sixteen years, during twelve of which he was our chairman. It was in that distinguished position during the mighty and eventful years since 1890, crossing the threshold of the twentieth century, that his great and conservative abilities served so safely and so well the people and the interests of the American nation.

No man can calculate the value of his devoted, intelligent, and diplomatic services in that period of nearly two decades. It is neither necessary or fitting in this brief hour of personal tributes to analyze the many international exigencies in which his superior tact and wisdom were preeminently displayed. History has recorded their results. Biography will detail and recount them, and future generations will revere the memory of him who wrought so nobly and effectively.

It was over there by the sea, where he tarried in the summer days last year, beseeching God and nature for the strength to come to us again. But at last the sea failed to send him back to us, and now we mourn together.

Years and years ago I heard a black man say of Abraham Lincoln that the severest criticism could discover in him nothing that affection would conceal. For the first time, after more than a decade, that utterance flashed upon my memory when I learned that our chairman and our friend could never come to us again.

## ADDRESS OF MR. LAMAR, OF FLORIDA

MR. SPEAKER: The character and fame of Mr. HITT as a public man are secure in the history of his country.

No critic could diminish it. No eulogist need seek to add to it. Mr. HITT had been well prepared for the important post in the House of Representatives of chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

For seven years he had been secretary of the American legation at Paris. He had been Assistant Secretary of State.

Those who served with him in Congress can best speak of the sagacity and high intelligence he always brought to bear upon public questions, and peculiarly those touching our foreign relations.

My service upon the Committee on Foreign Affairs with Mr. HITT was only for a year prior to his passing away. Familiar for years past with his eminent public career, my personal acquaintance began with him with my membership in the House of Representatives in the Fifty-eighth Congress.

I shall leave to others who knew him and served longer with him to speak of his deservedly successful public career. I desire to bear testimony to those engaging personal qualities that caused those who came in contact with Mr. HITT not only to admire but to love him.

Who that ever met him could forget his fine intelligence, and something more than that, his gracious manner, his kindly heart? He exhibited to me more than once his interest in my duties upon the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

More than once he made friendly suggestions, helpful to me in my service upon that committee.

With a proper firmness of character, Mr. HITT had in an eminent degree the charm of gentleness and gentle consideration for others.

An English poet wrote that he would not place upon his list of friends a man who, though graced with sense, yet, lacking sensibility, would set his foot needlessly upon a worm. The charm of Mr. HITT's personality was his exquisite sensibility, united with fine sense.

Mr. HITT was a gentle man. He was the true, chivalric gentleman.

## ADDRESS OF MR. DALZELL, OF PENNSYLVANIA

MR. SPEAKER: The very great esteem in which I held Mr. HITT in his lifetime and in which I hold his memory now, together with the recollection of the friendly interest that he always manifested in me, lead me to pay my humble tribute to his memory on this occasion. He always seemed to me from the time when I first knew him to be a man of mark among his fellows, conspicuous for his great and varied knowledge, both of books and of men, his tactfulness in dealing with the latter, and the uniform courtesy that made him a charming personality. I never spent any time, however brief, in Mr. HITT'S company that I did not feel that I had learned something. It is not to be wondered at that his accomplishments were varied. His public career covered some of the most critical periods of our history and brought him into contact with its most famous men. From the civil war to the end of the Spanish war, from Lincoln to Roosevelt—of all the happenings of those tempestuous times he had a right to say, "*Quorum pars magna fui.*" As a young man he reported the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates, and drank in from the very fountain head the inspiration of the principles for which the martyred President stood. To come into contact with Abraham Lincoln was in itself an inspiration. That great privilege Mr. HITT enjoyed, and the memory of it followed him like the savor of a sweet incense throughout all the years of his life.

It was his fortune to be present at the downfall of the second French Empire, to witness the rise of the Republic, and by his tactfulness and good judgment to contribute to the welfare and contentment of his fellow-countrymen in Paris during the

stormy days of the Franco-Prussian war, when he was first secretary of legation and chargé d'affaires ad interim at Paris.

It was no less his fortune to be the trusted friend and enjoy the companionship of the brilliant Blaine, whose Assistant he was as Secretary of State.

He was active, zealous, and exceedingly efficient as a regent of the Smithsonian Institution, ardently devoted to the carrying out of the objects of that great philanthropy, and rendering to the duties of his position such marked attention as has inseparably linked his name with its work and history. As I see his portrait hanging on its wall, I am struck with the appropriateness of the place for it. The calm, scholarly atmosphere is suggestive of one phase of Mr. HITT's character, for he loved his books and loved to be surrounded by them.

But it was as a Member of the House of Representatives that he made his greatest and best record. For twenty-four consecutive years he gave to his constituents and to his country the fruitful service of his cultivated mind, his mature judgment, his wise counsel, and his forceful efforts. He was no idler, no fitful worker, but an earnest, honest, faithful, everyday worker in the field of legislation. He was the warm, trusted, intimate friend of that greatest of parliamentary leaders known in the history of the English-speaking people, Thomas B. Reed. As to all matters relating to international law and international relations he was the one recognized authority not only by his own party, but by all parties. He shared the confidence of President McKinley and was one of his most relied-upon advisers. A participant in the administration of his country's affairs during the period covered by the Presidencies of Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland, and Harrison, he was a sharer also in the new career upon which his country entered during the Administration of McKinley and Roosevelt, the period of expansion of

world power. To the new problems presented he gave his earnest consideration and to their solution his wise counsel. He was one of the commissioners to establish a government for Hawaii on its annexation to the United States.

Mr. HITT died full of years and of honors. His life is a part of the history of his time. In him were united in a marked degree the qualities of the scholar and of the man of affairs. His ideals were high; his actions loyal to them. The world is better because he lived in it. As husband, father, friend, he wore the white flower of a blameless life. And to that inner circle of his home, of which he was the light and center, he left the priceless legacy of a life of love and tenderness.



**ADDRESS OF MR. LACEY, OF IOWA**

MR. SPEAKER: ROBERT R. HITT's long and honorable career in this House has been of lasting service to the country, and has left his name as another addition to the list of great and worthy men given by Illinois to the nation.

He was a pioneer in the art of stenography, and, at a time when there were but few men in the West who could take an accurate report of an extemporaneous speech, he reported and published the great debate between Lincoln and Douglas in their campaign for the Senatorship in Illinois in 1858. To this point the minds of his friends naturally turn as the beginning of his career.

It often happens that defeat is the stepping stone to higher success, and Lincoln, though defeated for the office of Senator, became an object of great national interest.

Mr. HITT preserved Lincoln's exact words for the historian and marked an epoch in our history.

Mr. HITT's chief service to his country in Congress was in the Committee on Foreign Affairs, where he was looked upon as the highest national authority.

His training in the diplomatic service especially fitted him for this work.

The House of Representatives is always ready to listen to the man who has something to say upon a public question which he thoroughly understands. Helpful men always get an attentive hearing.

Mr. HITT had given earnest attention to all general and political subjects, but he had specialized upon the questions

relating to our foreign affairs until his colleagues naturally turned to him for guidance. Another great Illinoisan, John Hay, was at the head of the State Department, a most worthy successor to the chair of Webster. Mr. HITT was a very modest man, but he was always willing to give the Administration and the Congress the benefit of his constant study and clear and incisive logic.

He was a thorough diplomat, and, though he took vigorous and pronounced positions in debate, his uniform courtesy and good humor always disarmed hostility and won the respect and confidence of the membership of this body without regard to party.

He was always ready. Some of the best speeches made by him were delivered upon the spur of the moment. Circumstances arose in debate in which an answer or elucidation of a situation seemed imperative, and, while he had made no preparation for the delivery of a set speech, he was so full of his subject that he was prepared to present the question at issue with the cleverness, strength, and polish of a carefully revised speech.

Many instances of this faculty will occur to the memory of the older Members with whom he long served.

But Mr. HITT was not a man of many words. Excellent as he was as a speaker, he was a worker rather than a talker. He gave full adhesion to the statement of Thomas B. Reed:

Boasters are worth nothing. Deeds are facts, and remain forever and ever. Talk dies on the empty air. Better a pound of performance than a shipload of language.

Humor is the great safeguard to sanity. To the man who has no sense of humor this hard, bleak world becomes intolerable. Mr. HITT was always ready to see the humorous side of all things. It was a great pleasure to listen to him when

some of his friends would skillfully start and direct his conversation into a channel of reminiscence.

The period in which Lincoln lived was one of stern responsibility and involved the gravest and greatest of questions. But there has been no time in our national life when American humor has had freer scope than in those stirring times.

No better exponent of the life and times of Lincoln and his contemporaries has been known to the present generation than  
ROBERT R. HITT.

**ADDRESS OF MR. FOSS, OF ILLINOIS**

MR. SPEAKER: I too would lay a laurel at his feet. I met him when I first became a Member of this body. He was among the first to welcome me, and that was one of the characteristics of the man; he had a greeting for every newcomer here. I served with him through six Congresses and came to know him in an intimate way. I was at the train when he left this city for the last time to go to Rhode Island, where he died. He had partially recovered from his illness and was in a cheery and happy mood, and seemingly confident of complete restoration.

He was a man greatly beloved for his gentle and kindly qualities. He was genial and generous, sparkling with wit, and abounding in delightful reminiscences—a brilliant conversationalist and a delightful companion.

His career was a long and useful one to his country. He was a collaborer with the mighty Lincoln. From 1874 to 1881 he was first secretary of the legation at Paris, and was later transferred to the State Department in Washington as Assistant Secretary. He was afterwards elected to the Forty-seventh Congress, and continuously reelected to each successive Congress. He was chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and was an authority, the greatest in our country, on all questions of foreign relations.

He was a man of splendid ability, a great student, and when he addressed the House, although not often, he exhausted the subject with wonderful clearness and great power. He was frequently mentioned for higher offices in the gift of his State, and was at times a candidate, but always in his candidacies he

maintained a high dignity and took the position that the office should seek the man. To-day he is mourned by all those who knew him as a warm and true friend. His name is honored and respected everywhere as one who brought great honor upon the State and nation which he served.

He was a man of great refinement, many accomplishments, faithful and true to the highest conception of public duty and public trust.

**ADDRESS OF MR. FULLER, OF ILLINOIS**

MR. SPEAKER: I accept this opportunity to pay my tribute to the memory of one who, in life, was my friend and in whose death I feel a personal loss.

Was he your friend? Then well you knew  
His friendship was unfeignedly true.

ROBERT R. HITT was a typical American gentleman, universally liked by those who knew him. Of him it might well be said that "Those who knew him best loved him most, and those who knew him little loved him much." He was reared on the broad prairies of northern Illinois, but a few miles from my own home. His parents came with him to Ogle County, Ill., when he was but 3 years of age. There he grew to manhood, was educated in the public schools and Rock River Seminary (now called Mount Morris College), and at De Pauw University. He took up the calling of a shorthand reporter and was one of the few who early became proficient in that calling. He reported for the Chicago Tribune the celebrated debates between those two Illinois giants, Lincoln and Douglas, in the campaign for the United States Senate in 1858. He was afterwards appointed official court reporter for the State of Illinois.

In 1867-68 he made a trip abroad, visiting Great Britain, the continent of Europe, Egypt, and the Holy Land. In 1868 he became private secretary to Governor Morton, of Indiana. Afterwards he was for several years secretary of the legation and chargé d'affaires at Paris, and in 1881 became Assistant Secretary of State under James G. Blaine. In 1882 he was elected to Congress to succeed to the vacancy caused by the death of the Hon. R. M. A. Hawk, and was reelected to each

succeeding Congress until the present Congress. During the ten years preceding my first election to this House, in 1902, Mr. HITT represented my home county, which was then a part of his district, and for twenty years he represented the adjoining county of Winnebago, now in my district. During that time I came to know him very well indeed, and the better I knew him the more I admired him for his ability and his great qualities of head and heart. In all his political career no taint attached to any official act of his; the finger of suspicion even was never pointed at him. In all the relations of life he was what has been termed "the noblest work of God," an honest man. I happen to know that other, and what might be called "higher," political honors might have been his had he been willing to do what some men deem legitimate in order to obtain such honors. His honor was dearer to him than any political preferment, and the consciousness of having maintained that honor unstained was his to the end of life.

Those who served with him through a longer part of the twenty-four years of his service in this House than I are better qualified to speak of his work here; I know that his work was appreciated and recognized as of the greatest value to the whole country. On questions relating to our foreign affairs he was an acknowledged authority. I saw enough of him here to know that, while he did not speak often, he never lacked for respectful attention when he had anything to say, and he never intruded himself upon the attention of the House unless he did have something to say. I heard his great speech in defense of the course of the Administration in the matter of the acquisition of the canal strip across the Isthmus of Panama, and the recognition by this Government of the new Republic of Panama. It was a masterly argument and one that, it seemed to me, must carry conviction to every fair-minded man who heard it.

His knowledge of international law and precedent was, at least, equal to that of any other man in the nation. When such a man departs the country mourns. But in the country at large we have learned to know that the life of no one man is of very great consequence. "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform." Millions of flags may float at half-mast to-day for the loss of one upon whom we have looked as a great and almost indispensable leader; but to-morrow those same flags will float as high as ever. The great world will move on, the progress of the nation will be stayed, if at all, only for a moment. Instinctively we turn our faces away from the tomb and take up anew the ordinary pursuits of life. However great or strong or mighty, however exalted in position or power or achievements, whatever of fame or wealth he may have possessed, death, the great leveler, reduces high and low alike to dust, and but a memory or an example remains.

The places of the departed are filled, even as the waters of the sea cover over and level the space where a ship has gone down. The greatest monument that any man can rear for himself, or leave to mark the place that he has filled in the world, is that in his time, in the age and generation in which he lived, he made the most of his opportunities; that, considering his environment, as he was given to see the right, he did the best he could. Measured by this standard ROBERT R. HITT left a priceless legacy to his family and friends; a legacy in which his legion of friends all share. He lived in an age of the greatest achievements, of the grandest times the world has ever known. He knew and was intimately associated with many of the greatest men of the period in which he lived. He was the friend and associate of Abraham Lincoln, Elihu B. Washburne, John A. Logan, James G. Blaine, Thomas B. Reed, Nelson Dingley, William McKinley, and a host of other leaders



of thought and action in their day and generation, all of whom preceded him to the other shore, that far-off country from which none have ever returned.

Mr. HITT was a Republican and participated in the achievements and the glory of that great organization from the day of its birth to the day of his death. Yet he was not a hidebound partisan and his friends were by no means limited to the members of his own party, but were to be found in the ranks of all parties. He was great enough and broad enough to recognize the good in those who differed with him in political belief, and he had the respect and esteem of all who knew him,—regardless of party affiliations. I remember well an incident he once related to me of an occurrence at Paris while he was connected with the American legation there. A prominent Democratic Member of Congress was visiting in Paris and expressed to Mr. HITT his desire to meet the great French statesman Gambetta. Mr. HITT went with him and introduced him to Gambetta. In France, especially at that time, party feeling ran high and members of one political party were not apt to be on terms of personal friendship with those of the opposing party. Gambetta expressed surprise that Mr. HITT, a Republican, should introduce as his friend a prominent member of the Democratic party, and he said:

Mr. HITT, I do not understand this. How is it that you, whom I know to be a Republican, introduce to me as your friend a gentleman whom I know very well by reputation as a prominent Democrat? I do not understand it at all.

Oh—

Replied Mr. HITT—

in our country we do not let political differences interfere at all in matters of personal friendship. This gentleman is my friend, and although we do not believe alike on mere matters of politics we are yet alike in love of our common country and loyalty to its flag.

With a magnificent gesture of commendation Gambetta replied:

Behold, the ideal Republic

And in that respect, thank God, it is ideal, and north and south, east and west, everywhere, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf and from the rocky shores of New England to the golden gate of the Pacific—aye, from the frozen regions of Alaska to the sun-kissed islands of the southern seas—we are one people, with one flag floating over us, glorying in a common heritage and going forward to a common destiny, which we believe, under God, will be more grand and glorious than anything the world has ever known.

In the upbuilding of this great nation, now in the very forefront among the most civilized and progressive nations of the earth, ROBERT R. HITT was a factor and did his part among the patriotic and progressive leaders of his time. He will be missed in the sphere of usefulness where his counsel and his work was of value to the nation; he will be missed in the great district he so long and so ably represented; he will be missed by the thousands of loyal friends who admired, respected, and loved him. No more will his voice be heard in this Chamber. Scholar, diplomat, statesman—his labors for his country and for humanity are ended. Kind, genial, companionable man—his virtues and his example remain with us. It is a pleasure to believe that death does not end all; that, in the language of the poet—

There's a land that is fairer than day;

That our friends have not gone from us forever, but that—

In the sweet by-and-by we shall meet on that beautiful shore where there is no more sorrow, or death, or parting. Where all that is best in man survives and all that is unworthy is left forever behind; where the weaknesses, and the jealousies, and

the animosities of this life fade into insignificance and are forgotten.

The seas are quiet when the winds give o'er;  
So calm are we when passions are no more ;  
For then we know how vain it was to boast  
Of fleeting things too certain to be lost.  
Clouds of affection from our younger eyes  
Conceal that emptiness which age describes.  
The soul's dark cottage, battered and decayed,  
Lets in new light through chinks that time has made ;  
Stronger by weakness, wiser men become,  
As they draw nearer to their eternal home.  
Leaving the old, both worlds at once they view,  
That stand upon the threshold of the new.

## ADDRESS OF MR. FLOOD, OF VIRGINIA

MR. SPEAKER: The tradition of Diogenes lighting a lantern at midday in Athens and announcing that he was searching for a man naturally provokes a smile. But Diogenes was by far too profound and earnest a man to be associated with the ridiculous. What the rigid philosopher meant was that he was upon the search of a man who regarded things intrinsically and shaped his life accordingly.

I believe he would have ended his quest had he met with ROBERT R. HITT.

The entire career of our departed friend and colleague was concerned with large and vivifying and inspiring matters. He was saturated upon the very threshold of his manhood with that wonderful debate between Lincoln and Douglas—alike dramatic and fraught with tremendous results. His subsequent life got its trend from that season of intimate association with those mighty reasoners.

The congenial studies to such a spirit were large questions with large relation. His varied experience for many years served to sharpen his faculties and to broaden their range.

Mr. HITT served during the momentous revolution in a confidential capacity to that colossal war minister, Edwin M. Stanton. During those exciting years succeeding the downfall of Napoleon the Third he was secretary of the legation to France. Afterwards he was assistant to Blaine in the Department of State.

What a unique and splendid career. One to dazzle and turn the heads of most men—ROBERT R. HITT they only steadied and sobered.

How well qualified he was for the discharge of his difficult duties upon the Committee on Foreign Affairs; how admirably did he discharge those duties; how perfectly, as if by processes of nature, he measured up to all of the requirements exacted of him; how enviable was he throughout his entire career, and yet without ever exciting envy, so true and modest and lovable a gentleman he was.

Mr. HITT was an incessant student of generous and stimulating topics. The value of such studies is inestimable. Cicero declared in a kindred case: "These studies foster our earlier years, afford delight in our later years, adorn us in prosperity, prove a refuge and a solace in adversity. They impart gratification at home; they embarrass not abroad; they are with us during the vigils of the night; they roam with us in foreign lands, and are our companions amid the retirement of rural scenes."

Mr. Speaker, eloquent and touching tributes are being paid to our friend. His long and versatile career is being happily and faithfully delineated. But the highest tribute paid to him is the unvaried testimony to his unselfish and disinterested kindness. Who that has known it does not cherish its memory with gratitude and admiration?

His unobtrusiveness, his self-poise, his sympathy, his companionableness were based upon the profound intuition of justice. With an ingenuous but not overawing estimate of his own merits, he generously responded to those of others, and there was a frankness and simplicity in his greeting and intercourse that stamped the genuineness of the man.

He ever "wore without reproach the grand old name of gentleman."

Mr. Speaker, justice is indeed a high attribute, if not the very highest. The ancient mythologists call it the "offspring of

heaven and earth." Its supremacy in any human breast signalizes a noble nature. And when to this exalted quality are added gentleness and modesty, kindness and sympathy, fellowship and helpfulness, we then indeed recognize a creation "where every god doth seem to set his seal to give the world assurance of a man."

ROBERT R. HITT has fought his fight and finished his course. He did generous service throughout, for which his State and the Republic will always hold his name and memory in high honor.

We will sorely miss him, and the one consolation we have is that his district has sent to this House as his successor one who measures up in so many ways to the high standard set by his predecessor.

Every valuable and earnest career is a long conflict. In this conflict Mr. HITT came off conqueror.

He has laid his armor down and "fallen upon sleep."

The knight's bones are dust,  
And his good sword rust;  
His soul is with the saints, I trust.

Mr. LOWDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members desiring to do so may have leave to print.

The SPEAKER. If there be no objection, it will be so ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Under the resolution heretofore adopted the House stands adjourned until to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock p. m.) the House adjourned until Monday, February 18, 1907, at 11 o'clock a. m.

## PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE

TUESDAY, *December 4, 1906.*

MR. CULLOM. Mr. President, I ask that the resolution of the House of Representatives relative to the death of the late Representative ROBERT R. HITT, of Illinois, may be laid before the Senate.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate resolution of the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The Secretary read the resolution, as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*December 3, 1906.*

*Resolved*, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. ROBERT R. HITT, a Representative from the State of Illinois in thirteen successive Congresses.

MR. CULLOM. Mr. President, I submit a resolution, and ask for its present consideration.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT. The Senator from Illinois submits a resolution, and asks for its present consideration. The resolution will be read.

The resolution was read, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Senate has heard with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of Hon. ROBERT R. HITT, a Representative from the State of Illinois in thirteen successive Congresses.

MR. LODGE. Mr. President, I also offer another resolution.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT. The Senator from Massachusetts proposes an additional resolution, which will be read.

The resolution was read, as follows:

*Resolved*, That as an additional mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the Senate do now adjourn.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to; and (at 2 o'clock and 55 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Wednesday, December 5, 1906, at 12 o'clock meridian.

SATURDAY, *February 23, 1907.*

The VICE-PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following resolutions from the House of Representatives, which were read:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*February 17, 1907.*

*Resolved*, That the business of the House be now suspended that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of Hon. ROBERT R. HITT, late a member of this House from the State of Illinois.

*Resolved*, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House, at the conclusion of these exercises, shall stand adjourned.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

MR. CULLOM. Mr. President, I submit the following resolutions, and ask that they may be read.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT. The Senator from Illinois proposes resolutions, which will be read by the Secretary.

The resolutions were read, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Senate expresses its profound sorrow on account of the death of Hon. ROBERT R. HITT, late a member of the House of Representatives from the State of Illinois.

*Resolved*, That the business of the Senate be suspended in order that fitting tributes be paid to his memory.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary communicate a copy of these resolutions to the House of Representatives and to the widow and family of the deceased.



## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

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### ADDRESS OF MR. CULLOM, OF ILLINOIS

MR. PRESIDENT: This hour has been set apart that we may review the life, services, and character of a man well known to the majority of Members of this Senate, and with whom I was intimately associated, in public and private life, since our school days together, more than fifty years ago.

I speak of the late Hon. ROBERT R. HITT, who served as a Member of Congress from the State of Illinois for almost a quarter of a century.

Mr. President, few men in public life occupied so high a place in the esteem and estimation of the people of his State and country as did Mr. HITT.

He was born in Urbana, Champaign County, Ohio, on January 16, 1834.

His father, the Rev. Thomas S. Hitt, settled in Ogle County, Ill., in 1837, and this continued to be Mr. HITT's home until the time of his death. His father was a Methodist minister, a man of force and character, one of the foremost citizens of his portion of the State, and it was through his effort that the Rock River Seminary, at Mount Morris, Ill., a prominent institution of learning in the early days of the State, was established.

The late Representative attended the Rock River Seminary, and, with Governor Beveridge, the distinguished John A. Rawlins, the late Congressman G. L. Fort, John Hitt, and others,

were classmates of mine. It was there that I first met and learned to know and appreciate his character, and the intimacy thus early formed continued until his death.

Mr. HITT was a thorough student. I never knew a young man who was a more constant reader and who seemed never to forget anything he once read.

He received his first start in life through his knowledge of phonography. As a very young man he took a deep interest in shorthand and soon became one of the earliest and most capable stenographers in the West.

The first notable service which Mr. HITT performed and which attracted the attention of the country to him was his reports of the Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858. He accompanied Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas to Ottawa, Freeport, Jonesboro, Charleston, Galesburg, Quincy, and Alton, Ill., and it was through his proficiency as a stenographer that millions of intensely interested readers all over this country were enabled to have a daily verbatim report of this greatest of all political discussions, involving the most momentous issues, ever held in this or any other country.

In his *Twenty Years of Congress*, James G. Blaine characterizes the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858 as "a discussion which at the time was so interesting as to enchain the attention of a nation, in its immediate effect so striking as to affect the organization of party, in its subsequent effect so powerful as to change the fate of millions."

Douglas was already a great national figure—one of the ablest of the leaders of a Senate which included in its membership as great a number of eminent statesmen and notable men as were ever before or since gathered together in this Chamber—while Mr. Lincoln was then comparatively unknown outside of his own State. One can scarcely realize now the

intense interest which those debates awakened in every part of this country. They had a tremendous effect upon the public sentiment of the day. Lincoln's masterly effort challenged the admiration of the people, and it was his wonderful success in this debate which finally culminated two years later in his election as President of the United States.

Lincoln became much attached to the young reporter and would decline to begin the discussions until sure that HITT was present.

The story is told of an interesting occurrence which took place at Freeport, where one of the debates was held.

A stand was erected in a field adjacent to the city. Thousands of people gathered about the platform. The speakers were ready. The throng was impatient. The tall form of Lincoln arose. He looked anxiously over the crowd. He called out, "Where's HITT? Is HITT present?" HITT, from the extreme outskirts of the living mass, answered, "Here I am, but I can not get to the platform." The good-natured people understood the situation. They seized the slender youth and passed him over their heads to the stand.

Mr. HITT's next important service was rendered as secretary of the Davis-Holt commission, sent to Missouri to investigate the Frémont régime in that portion of the country. It was a long, laborious, and important work, as the voluminous report prepared by him and still preserved in the archives of Congress will show.

After the conclusion of this service Mr. HITT became associated in a confidential capacity with that commanding figure of the civil war, Edwin M. Stanton, Lincoln's splendid Secretary of War.

All during the civil war and later Mr. HITT was employed in many confidential capacities, and his ability and proficiency

were so well recognized that his services were constantly sought by commissions, by committees of Congress, by military courts, and by the Executive Departments.

After the return from an extended trip to Europe and the Holy Land in 1871 he accompanied, as its secretary, the Commission sent to Santo Domingo by President Grant to inquire into the resources of the country, with a view to its annexation. Mr. HITT prepared for the Commission a detailed report, which is still one of the best authorities we have on that unsettled country.

President Grant, like President Lincoln, had great respect for and confidence in Mr. HITT, his capacity and ability, and in 1874 he appointed him as secretary of the United States legation at Paris, which position he filled, with great credit to himself and his country, for more than six years.

That most popular American statesman, James G. Blaine, when he became Secretary of State under President Garfield, immediately tendered Mr. HITT, whose personal friend he was, the position of Assistant Secretary of State. The tender of the position came as a surprise, but after some hesitation he accepted. He continued as Mr. Blaine's principal assistant until Mr. Arthur became President, when he voluntarily retired with his chief.

Although Mr. HITT had held many important positions prior to 1882 and had enjoyed in the highest degree the respect, esteem, and confidence of the great public men of the day, commencing with Lincoln, Douglas, and Stanton, continuing with Grant, Garfield, and Blaine, his public career really commenced when he entered Congress in 1882. The nomination was not solicited. It was tendered to him. For twenty-four years he continued to represent his district in Congress, and so much pride did the people of his district take in him that

he seldom had opposition in his own party, and he was at times elected by majorities ranging from fifteen to more than seventeen thousand.

Twenty-four years in the House is a long term of service. Very few men in our history have had so long, continuous, and honorable service in the House of Representatives.

The House is a great forum in which to achieve distinction. Many of our Presidents achieved, at least in part, that distinction through the reputations they made as Members of the House. The reputation of a Member of the House is made only as a result of individual effort and ability. Here in the Senate seniority and long service do much. A member of Congress who can serve nearly a quarter of a century and retire with the reputation Mr. HITT had is no ordinary man. He must in the highest degree have had extraordinary ability.

His long service abroad and in the State Department, his knowledge of our foreign affairs, and his ability peculiarly adapted him for service on the Foreign Affairs Committee. He was soon made a member of that committee, and later he became its chairman, in which position he continued for many years and until his death. A more distinguished and able chairman that committee has never had.

Mr. HITT occupied an unique position in the House, and his death leaves a vacancy which can not easily be filled. In many respects he resembled the late Cushman K. Davis. Like Mr. Davis in the Senate, he took comparatively little interest in current legislation, but when any great subject affecting our foreign relations was under discussion he immediately became in the fullest sense leader of the House, just as Mr. Davis, under similar circumstances, became the leader of the Senate.

I think it will be admitted that he was more thoroughly con-

versant with all that pertains to our foreign relations than any other Member of the body.

Subjects affecting our foreign relations should be above partisanship. Partisanship should cease at our own shores, and questions pertaining to our relations with other governments should be considered and disposed of without regard to party affiliation. But when, unfortunately, such questions have been debated from a partisan standpoint, Mr. HITT was naturally selected as the leader of his party on the floor of the House. How well he merited that distinction has been often testified to by his colleagues, and the record of his many able speeches in Congress will demonstrate.

His last great speech was a defense of the Administration on the recognition of Panama as an independent Government. It was, I believe, the first speech delivered in either House clearly and forcibly defending the President's position from the standpoint of international law. Even those who disagreed with Mr. HITT were compelled to admit that it was a most able effort.

He was appointed by President McKinley as a member of the commission to frame a form of government for Hawaii, and, with the senior Senator from Alabama and myself as the other members of the commission, spent some time in Hawaii making a personal investigation and framing a suitable bill providing for its government.

Mr. HITT was not a politician. He knew very little of the intricacies or machinery of politics. He was purely the statesman, and fortunately he represented an unusually intelligent and appreciative constituency, who took great pride in his reputation and standing in Congress and continued him in the position he graced so well as long as he lived.

In demeanor Mr. HITT was always the thoroughly cultivated gentleman in the best acceptance of that term—quiet and mod-

est, reserved and thoughtful, but at the same time always approachable. When induced to take part in either private conversation or debate on the rostrum or on the floor of the House he always proved himself master of the subject. He was scholarly, a man of broad culture, speaking and writing several languages with ease and fluency, and a student all his life.

He would have made a great Secretary of State, and at one time, not many years ago, I had every reason to suppose that he would be invited to assume the State portfolio. Had he lived and retained his health, I feel certain that this Government, on his retirement from Congress, would have availed itself of his services as an ambassador to one of the important European countries.

But it seemed decreed otherwise, and he passed away at his summer home at Narragansett Pier, R. I., September 20, 1906, surrounded by those he loved best, well and favorably known by the diplomats and statesmen of Europe, mourned by his district and State, respected and esteemed by his colleagues in Congress and by the people of the whole country.

## ADDRESS OF MR. LODGE, OF MASSACHUSETTS

MR. PRESIDENT: First impressions are the most vivid. They dwell longest in the memory. They remain clear and sharp in outline when later memories grow blurred. This is as true of new experiences or of a new course of life as of a new country upon which the glance of the traveler rests for the first time. So when a man comes to Washington and begins his service in Congress, the figures and events of his first year stand out more clearly in his recollections than many which have followed them. Among the men whom I remember best when I first entered Congress, twenty years ago, was Mr. HITT. He was one of the leaders, one of the recognized leaders of the House even then. Yet he seldom spoke and scarcely ever took part in the running debates of the daily sessions. But whenever he took the floor he had the complete attention of the House and its perfect confidence in all questions in which party lines were not drawn. His especial subject was foreign affairs, and he was the leading member, and during all his later years chairman, of the great committee charged with that important subject. His knowledge of our foreign relations, of our diplomatic history, and of the diplomatic history of Europe was unsurpassed. There was no subject, no question involving our relations with other countries, upon which he could not at a moment's notice call out a wealth of information, not only as to the leading principles and essential conditions presented, but as to all the details, both personal and political, with which the history of the transaction could be illuminated or explained. But international relations and the history of diplomacy were but part of a generous learning which ranged over many fields and left none untilled or



unharvested. He was a man of the widest reading, and not only remembered what he read, but remembered it intelligently. His learning was never an incumbrance, but an adornment, worn as lightly as a flower and used as skillfully as the blade of the master of fence.

Mr. HITT was a statesman in the most exact and broadest sense of the word, and men did not have to wait until he died to find this out. He was so recognized in the House, where he served so long, and his high qualities were equally recognized in the Senate, where, unfortunately for his State and country, he was never permitted to serve.

I have spoken of him as he appeared to me in his public capacity when I first saw him and as he continued to appear during all the succeeding years. But I should not satisfy myself if I did not speak of him as the friend whom I came to know well and for whom I never ceased to feel a deep affection as well as a very genuine admiration. Mr. HITT, among many good qualities, had that of kindness to young men, and I have a very grateful memory of his kindness to me when I first entered the House. Thus it happened that I early became his friend, and there was no man whose society I more enjoyed. He was full of humor, which went hand in hand with his wide knowledge both of men and books, and a more agreeable companion, a more interesting man in talk, it would have been difficult to find. He had looked out upon the world as he passed through it with keen sight and observant eyes. The observation was always good natured, but always penetrating. He was without illusions, but he was the kindest cynic that ever smiled upon the inconsistencies and absurdities and pretenses with which humanity is fond of soothing itself at suitable moments.

But his charm as a companion and friend rested on those deeper and stronger qualities without which the most compel-

ling charm is fleeting and superficial. He was eminently loyal to country, to party, and to friend. He was patriotic and able, looking far into consequences and possibilities. He was of high honor and unspotted life. Fortunate in the friendship and trust which Lincoln gave him in his youth, he was equally fortunate in his later life and friendships and the trust and confidence of the great President were continued to him in his age by the people of his State and country and were never forfeited.

**ADDRESS OF MR. MCCREARY, OF KENTUCKY**

MR. PRESIDENT: Death has taken from the Congress of the United States HON. ROBERT R. HITT, of the State of Illinois. He died full of years and full of honors with his harness on, and the effulgence of his intellect and the sunshine of his disposition and the purity of his patriotism unimpaired.

I first became personally acquainted with him in 1885, when I was appointed a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, of which committee he was also a member. I served with him twelve years on that committee, and a part of the time he was chairman of the committee and part of the time I had the honor to be chairman of that committee, and our long association on that committee was never marred or disturbed by contention or disagreement, but was ever harmonious and pleasant and was the basis of friendship which strengthened with the lapse of years and will always be remembered by me with pleasure and gratification.

God seems to place some men in spheres of life which are congenial and where they can best serve His purposes and benefit their country. For twenty-four years ROBERT R. HITT was a Representative in Congress, and he seemed to be created for the duties of that office. The House of Representatives of the United States is one of the most important forums in the world. There men are judged not by the offices they have held nor by the splendor of their ancestry; not by the honor and renown they have achieved; not by the glamor of conspicuous civil or military careers, but they are judged by what they do, by the capacity, fidelity, and honesty with which they discharge the various and responsible duties of Representatives in the Congress of the United States. In that great forum questions are

discussed and measures enacted which concern the destinies of our Republic, and he who as a Representative of the people wins their approbation and advocates their welfare and helps to promote the great interests of the Republic is not only a worthy and faithful public servant, but he has done that which in all ages and in all countries has merited and received lasting honors and continuous admiration and respect.

Mr. HITT was equal in every respect to the position he held. His ability, industry, integrity, and faithful and efficient service made him a model Congressman, respected by his colleagues and loved by his constituents.

He was well equipped for all kinds of legislation and was a most excellent parliamentarian, but his services as chairman and as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs were conspicuous. He entered Congress after he had experience and training as secretary of legation and chargé d'affaires at Paris, France, and Assistant Secretary of State, and after association with many of the ablest and most prominent men of our country and of Europe, and he soon proved that he was a worthy representative of the great State of Illinois, which had been represented in the councils of the nation by Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, John A. Logan, David Davis, Lyman Trumbull, and others.

He was an earnest student of international law and was a recognized authority on all matters pertaining to our foreign affairs, and was well informed in diplomacy, and he could have discharged the duties of Secretary of State or ambassador abroad with credit to himself and honor to his country.

Mr. HITT lived in an age of the greatest achievements and the most marvelous progress the world has ever known. His life, which is a part of the history of his time, illustrated high appreciation of his environments and marked and noble efforts to make the world better because he lived in it, and showed

what a man can accomplish by intelligence, energy, integrity, and fidelity to duty.

In his early manhood, after he was educated at De Pauw University, he was a stenographer and reporter, and he preserved and published the exact words of Lincoln and Douglas in their great debate in Illinois in 1858, which marked an epoch in our country's history. He made rapid advancement in learning and in official position, and in the largest part of his mature life he was a Congressman and participated in the administration of the affairs and the enactment of the laws of the greatest Republic in the world during the period embraced by the Presidencies of Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland, Harrison, McKinley, and Roosevelt; and no man gave more earnest consideration to the great problems presented or did his part more faithfully among the patriotic and progressive leaders of his time, or tried more earnestly to do his duty as God gave him the wisdom to see the right, than Hon. ROBERT R. HITT.

Our friend, with his rare acquirements, courtly manner, and delicate and refined nature, has left us forever. Our loved colleague, in whose career no breath of suspicion ever assailed his integrity or dimmed the brightness of his honor, now sleeps the sleep of death. He will be missed in the many spheres of usefulness which he adorned. He will be missed in his district, in his State, and in the councils of the nation. He will be missed by his host of friends who admired, respected, and loved him, but above all he will be missed beyond expression in his home he loved so well, and of which he was the light and center, by his loving wife and devoted sons.

In halls of state he sat for many years  
Like fabled knight, his visage all aglow,  
Receiving, giving sternly, blow for blow,  
Champion of right; but from eternity's far shore  
Thy spirit will return to join the strife no more.  
Rest, citizen, statesman, rest; thy troubled life is o'er.

## ADDRESS OF MR. SPOONER, OF WISCONSIN

MR. PRESIDENT: The request by the distinguished Senator from Illinois [Mr. Cullom], the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, and long an associate in public life of ROBERT R. HITT, that I speak a word of tribute to his memory, comes to me as a command. It seems to be my rather unhappy lot to be called upon to speak in unstudied words and unpolished sentences of colleagues and friends who have gone to the grave from public life. I looked upon ROBERT R. HITT as a friend. I entertained for him great respect and admiration. There was an undefinable something about him that seemed to come down from the Lincoln period. He was essentially individual to my apprehension; all in all a quaint character. One like Mr. HITT could not, in early or later life, be the confidant and associate of Abraham Lincoln without obtaining from that association an education the like of which the schools do not and can not afford.

Mr. HITT, had he chosen to devote his life to purely legislative functions in general, would have excelled as a practical legislator. But he was a born diplomat. He had spent much time abroad. He had gleaned from his service in France a great and valuable discipline on the lines of diplomatic thought work. He chose to make that his specialty in public service, and he chose wisely and well and for the benefit of his country.

He was not an orator in the sense the world at large thinks and speaks of oratory, but he was a charming and interesting speaker. He was always fully possessed of every phase of the subject upon which he spoke. His diction, never in the slightest apparently studied, was absolutely exquisite in its simplicity

and beauty. More than once I have listened to him in the House of Representatives speaking upon some diplomatic question—and none are more important, none more complicated, none more difficult of wise solution, and oftentimes none more dangerous, than the questions which grow out of our foreign relations—and his thought was as clear as crystal and his language was as clear as his thought.

He well deserved the abiding and complete confidence which the late but always to be remembered John Hay reposed in him as a wise counselor and as a loyal and devoted friend. I concur in all that has been said of him by the Senators who have preceded me. He would have made an exceptionally able Secretary of State. I think, as much as the people of the United States admired and respected him; I think, as dearly as the people who for twenty-four years kept him as their Representative loved him, neither the country at large nor the people of his district fully appreciate the public service which he rendered.

It is a great mistake to measure a man's usefulness in public life, in the House or in the Senate, by the speeches which he makes here, by the reports which he writes and presents upon important public matters, or by the measures which he introduces. We here all realize, what the country at large can hardly be expected to realize, that a great mass of the valuable, splendid service rendered by the Members of the two Houses is rendered in committee room and in consultation with the different Departments of the Government. I know more than once when the wisdom, the experience, and knowledge of diplomatic history in our career as a nation has enabled Mr. HITT to solve a problem which gave all, however able, who were concerned in its solution great anxiety.

He was a charming companion. He was one of the best raconteurs I ever met. His memory was stored with anec-

dotes and experiences gleaned from abroad and at home, which he told in an inimitable way, and no one of which he could not as a gentleman—for there was no finer gentleman—have told in the presence of a lady. His hospitality in his own home was delightful. He was a frank man. There seemed to be, while quite reserved, in him nothing of that stealthy reserve which sometimes characterizes the diplomat. He believed in the modern diplomacy, which tells the truth and which is franker and more open than the diplomacy of old times.

Mr. President, like the Senator whose memory we have honored this afternoon, the heart of ROBERT R. HITT proved in the end to be his mortal weakness. I visited him several times during the last months of his life, when he could not take ten steps with safety, and when sitting beside him on his porch not far from my home was the wife who had been his friend and companion and lover during all the years. He talked about the diplomacy of the country, the questions which confronted us, and the dangers which he thought—and he was a farsighted man—beset us; and with apparent sadness he seemed to feel that he would not much longer be a participant in the affairs which for so many years had absorbed him, and pointed here and there to possible solutions, one of which since his death has been approved.

I may say this in conclusion. His life in private and in public was spotless. He was a singularly able public man, calm, wise, patriotic, and devoted. His memory will be forever fragrant and honored in the memory of our people, Mr. President, and I hope some day, although I doubt it, the people of the whole country will come to know that for the labor of twenty-four and more years which he gave to the country, to our people, they owe to him a "debt, immense, of endless gratitude."



**ADDRESS OF MR. KEAN, OF NEW JERSEY**

MR. PRESIDENT: It is with no ordinary feeling that I rise to say a few words in memory of the distinguished man to whose memory and works for his country and State we to-day pay tribute.

MR. HITT's public career covered the most important and critical period of our history and brought him into contact with the most famous men of the times. Beginning as a young man, he reported the famous debates between Lincoln and Douglas. Continuing in public life, it was his fortune to render distinguished service to his country during the Franco-Prussian war at the time of the siege of Paris. He also rendered to his country valuable assistance as Assistant Secretary of State under Mr. Blaine. But his great record was made as a Member of Congress. For more than twenty-four years he gave to his constituents and to the country the benefit of his cultivation of mind, his sound judgment, and his best efforts.

I first knew ROBERT HITT when I came to Washington as a young Member of Congress. It was then I learned to appreciate the extent and accuracy of his stores of knowledge and the breadth of his wide experience. I learned to appreciate more than anything else his kindly, generous nature, and while I admired him as a statesman, I loved him as a friend. Most of the happiness of those early days in Washington I owe to the constant, daily association with one so kindly and so gifted. His was true sweetness of disposition, which the sharpness of

party strife, the bitterness of disappointment, or even the trial of long, weary illness could not ruffle or embitter. He served his country at home and abroad with ability and success. His attainments remain as monuments to his memory. He has left a place in the councils of his State and nation difficult to fill and a memory gracious, respected, honored, and revered.

**ADDRESS OF MR. DANIEL, OF VIRGINIA**

MR. PRESIDENT: It would be well for our country if there were more men in the public service of the character, of the mold, and of the temperament of the late ROBERT R. HITT, of Illinois. He was a unique man, a very remarkable man, remarkable for the fine balance of his faculties and for the excellent good judgment he displayed on all occasions. He was remarkable for his serene and gentle disposition. It was not offensive to him that another differed with him in opinion, nor was he ever offensive in stating his differences of opinion with another. He was remarkable in his equipment and in his aptitude for the tasks of public life. Lord Bacon says, "Reading maketh a full man." Mr. HITT was a full man. He had that thirst of knowledge which the Creator has implanted in generous minds that love the truth and can never be content in their quest for it. He read much and his fine memory kept in store what he read.

The same great man has also said, "Writing maketh the accurate man." Mr. HITT was an accurate man. He made just estimate of the tasks which he assumed. He had acquired the habit of writing in the most severe and delicate kind of manual composition, which requires the skilled hand and the nicest and closest application of the intellect. He was in youth a stenographer, and amongst the most skilled of that craft in the West. It is a great cultivation of the whole man to study deeply any question or master any art. His compositions had that delicacy of expression and that fitness of statement which bespeaks the well-ordered mind. They flowed from the accuracy with which he measured men and things. They flowed

like streams within their banks. They bore clear messages from a clear mind, and carried light in the exact communication of specific thought to others.

"Speaking," said Bacon, "maketh the ready man." Mr. HITT never seemed to have the ambition or the taste or the dramatic instinct to make himself a figure of conspicuousness or to shine on great occasions, but the serenity of his mind appeared on all occasions and bespoke the settled judgment. When he chose to speak, he spoke neatly and aptly, not to the galleries, not to an absent audience, but to the point of what he was endeavoring to illuminate and to those who were deciding. He was a ready man, one not to be surprised or startled—ready because equipped and because of steady opinion and purpose, and because also gifted with the faculty of natural expression.

Mr. HITT was credited by all who knew him to be a good man, one who felt the responsibility of the tasks committed to his hands, and one who sought in all becoming ways to accomplish the objects and to carry out the views which impressed him as right and just. And so he could do these things. He seemed to be utterly careless of himself.

Mr. HITT was one of the most unpretentious men with whom I have ever been thrown in contact. In his intercourse with others and in his dealings with public things it never occurred to you to suppose that he was thinking of himself and yet when he dealt with things you could see that he had seen through them, that he understood them, and that he was a master of the subject which he undertook to illustrate. He was a conservative man. He did not dip into many things, but he understood a few things and on these he was an authority and a guide. Like the distinguished Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCreary], who has paid to him to-day the just tribute of a colleague in

most eloquent and fitting terms, I first became acquainted with Mr. HITT in the Forty-ninth Congress, when he was in the minority and when the distinguished Senator from Kentucky and I were in the majority of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

We were not long together before everyone realized that we were fortunate in his presence and in his having a share of our labors. I can not recall ever to have heard a word of partisanship uttered by him or that any kind of partisan spirit was ever engendered amongst the gentlemen who shared in the labors of that committee. They had respect for each other, and each went his way as he thought best.

I then formed a high opinion of Mr. HITT, both of his judgment, of his sincerity, of his learning and ability, and of his high and noble character. It is pleasing to me to reflect that at the end of nearly a quarter of a century I can contemplate long relations with him, not indeed those of intimate friendship, but those of frequent contact and association and manly feeling, in which never a word was said or anything done to break the current of cordial esteem and good will between us.

Mr. President, I have broken bread by his fireside, and I know the charm of that home which was the crown of his life and the source of his greatest pride and joys. Many men, as has been remarked by the distinguished Senator from Wisconsin [Mr. Spooner], have made great names and have shown in the public annals of our representative bodies here who have neither undertaken nor accomplished such worthy and such lasting tasks as did Mr. HITT. Yet it is also true that if those records of the Government which are seldom seen by any eye and which make impression upon but few were brought to light and were to be given due and proper weight and consideration, I doubt if there is any man who has served the

United States in Congress within a score of years concerning whom would be discovered and brought to light more durable and more worthy memorials of honest and useful public service.

He was useful to his country and to his kind. Is not this the best of all epitaphs, except that he left a name without a shadow or a blemish upon it? It is no wonder that his constituency in Illinois were so faithful to him, for they had learned and they knew that he was faithful to them. He sought as his highest dignity and received the greatest of all rewards in knowing that they appreciated his services.

**ADDRESS OF MR. HOPKINS, OF ILLINOIS**

Mr. SUTHERLAND. On account of the unavoidable absence of the junior Senator from Illinois [Mr. Hopkins], he requested me to read to the Senate the following :

Mr. PRESIDENT : Death has claimed few public men recently more honored and respected by the people of Illinois than ROBERT R. HITT.

For several years the rugged health which marked his early and mature years had deserted him. He fought the grim monster Death for years, however, with courage and persistency. During all this time he discharged his public duties and all personal and social obligations with a bright and cheerful spirit that are found ordinarily only in those who enjoy the best of health.

When I first entered public life as a Member of the Forty-ninth Congress Mr. HITT, whose district joined mine on the west in Illinois, was then a prominent figure in the House of Representatives. He was chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, and was honored and respected as one of the most cultured and distinguished members of that body.

For a full quarter of a century he represented in the House of Representatives one of the most intelligent and richest districts in Illinois. It had been made famous before his day by sending to the House of Representatives of the United States such men as E. D. Baker, who fell at Balls Bluff, one of the most eloquent orators of his time and one of the most heroic figures of the civil war ; Elihu B. Washburne, a great historical character ; Mr. Burchard and Mr. Hawk, less distinguished,

perhaps, than their predecessors, but men, however, of great ability, who rendered conspicuous service in the House of Representatives.

Mr. HITT had had a long and varied experience in public life prior to his Congressional career. He was Mr. Lincoln's especial friend long before that great man was thought of for the Presidency, and during the now famous debates between Senator Douglas and Mr. Lincoln Mr. HITT was selected by Mr. Lincoln to take his speeches in shorthand and transcribe them for the public. He was a very young man at this period, but was regarded, and justly so, as the most accomplished stenographer of his day. He had been educated at what was then known as Rock River Seminary, in Illinois, now known as Mount Morris College, and later at De Pauw University, and thus brought to bear in the discharge of his duties scholarly attainments and a literary finish to his work that are rare in shorthand-reporters.

For many years he was secretary of legation and chargé d'affaires ad interim at Paris, and later was Assistant Secretary of State. In these several public positions he not only discharged his duty with fidelity, but with an ability that ultimately led to his wider field of usefulness as a Member of Congress.

During his entire service in the House of Representatives no Member exerted a wider influence than he in the House and country on all questions affecting our foreign relations. He had made an especial study of our diplomatic relations from the earliest history of the Government, and was looked up to as an authority on the various questions that from time to time came before the House of Representatives affecting our relations with foreign countries.

The people of his district loved and honored him, and their



confidence in him was reciprocated by a loyalty that knew no wavering. While he never forgot his duty to his State and country, his first love was to the people of his district, and he allowed no opportunity to pass unnoticed that enabled him to contribute to their welfare and prosperity.

His death, while not unlooked for, when it came was a shock to the good people of his district and the State of Illinois.

He has passed over the dark river. His voice will never again be heard in that great legislative body, the House of Representatives, where he so frequently, during his long and distinguished career, defended the great principles of government which have made our country the foremost nation of the world.

He will be missed in the committee room, where his wise counsel controlled and directed his colleagues on the Foreign Relations Committee. He will never again be heard in the district that he so long and honorably represented in Congress; but his memory, Mr. President, will long remain not only with the people of his district and the State of Illinois, but with all who had the good fortune during his life to come within the circle of his acquaintance and fellowship, as an inspiration to them and to succeeding generations.

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